CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

the Raucinal Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Epidinese force. High the Raucinal Defense of which in any manuer to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law

REPORT NO.

Assassination of President CASTILLO

DATE DISTR.

1 August 1955

SUBJECT

ROWERO

Armas Planned by Captain Fernando

NO. OF PAGES

DATE OF INFO.

25 June 1955

REQUIREMENT NO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

reference**s**

DATE ACQUIRED

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

- Captain Fernando ROMERO, who went to Chiquimula, Guatemala, on 25 June 1955 to attend the celebration of the first anniversary of the capture of the town by liberation forces, planned to assassinate President Carlos CASTILLO Armas while the latter was at a luncheon there. However, CASTILLO made only a short visit to Chiquimula and did not remain for the luncheon as scheduled; ROMERO was therefore unable to carry out his mission.
- In a heated political discussion with Col. Jorge RARRIOS Solares, Governor of the Department, which took place that evening, ROWERO became so enraged that he attempted to throw the hand grenade which he had planned to use against CASTILLO. When an side to BARRIOS saw what ROMERO intended to do, he shot him through the head. However, the grenade exploded, and several people were wounded, including Col. PARRIOS, 2)

- It is not clear whether this was part of an organized attempt on CASTILLO's life or whether ROMERO was acting solely on his own authority.
- Newspaper accounts of this incident indicated only that ROMERO died inc Chiquimula after a grenade exploded in his hand. Col. PARRIOS has returned. to duty.

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